

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A spacer grid (10) for placing and supporting a plurality of longitudinal fuel rods (125) in a nuclear reactor fuel assembly, comprising a plurality of inner strips (30) intersecting each other to form a plurality of guide tube cells (15) to receive guide tubes (13) therein and a plurality of fuel rod cells (26) to receive the fuel rods (125) therein, with a plurality of mixing blades (27) projecting upward from the inner strips (30) at intersections of the inner strips (30); and a plurality of perimeter strips (40) each of which comprises a plurality of unit strips (40') to encircle the intersecting inner strips, ~~each of the perimeter strips comprising a plurality of unit strips (30) and two unit strips (40")~~ to form outermost corner cells of the spacer grid (10), with a grid spring (50) provided on each of the unit strips (40', 40"), the grid spring (50) comprising:

- a vertical opening (53) formed at a central area of each of the unit strips;

- a vertical support part (51) extending vertically in the vertical opening (53) between central portions of top and bottom edges of the vertical opening (53) ; and

- a fuel rod support part (52) provided at a central portion of the vertical support part (51), the fuel rod support part (52) being bent to have an outward rounded cross-section.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The spacer grid (10) according to claim 1, wherein the vertical support part (51) is bent at two steps, and the fuel rod support part (52) is bent to be

equiangular with the fuel rods (125), thus accomplishing a uniform contact pressure distribution when the fuel rod support part (52) is in contact with each of the fuel rods (125).

Claim 3 (currently amended): The spacer grid (10) according to claim 1, wherein ~~the unit strips of each of the perimeter strips comprise a plurality of unit intermediate strips to encircle the intersecting inner strips and a plurality of unit corner strips to form outermost corner cells of the spacer grid,~~ each of the unit intermediate strips (40') having a coolant flow guide vane (57) and a guide tap (58) on an upper edge thereof such that a plurality of coolant flow guide vanes (57) and a plurality of guide taps (58) are alternately arranged along an upper edge of each of ~~the perimeter strips~~ the unit strips (40'), and each of the unit ~~corner~~ strips (40") having either a coolant flow guide vane (57) or a guide tap (58) on an upper edge thereof to complete an alternate arrangement of the coolant flow guide vanes (57) and the guide taps (58), in cooperation with the unit intermediate strips (40').

Claim 4 (currently amended): The spacer grid (10) according to claim 3, wherein each of the plurality of unit ~~intermediate~~ strips (40') has two guide taps (58) projecting downward at both corners on a lower edge of each of the unit ~~intermediate~~ strips (40'), and each of the plurality of unit ~~corner~~ strips (40") has a guide tap (58) projecting downward on a lower edge of each of the unit ~~corner~~ strip (40").

Claim 5 (currently amended): The spacer grid (10) according to claim 3, wherein each of the coolant flow guide vanes (57) is bent toward a center of the spacer grid (10), with a width of each of the guide vanes (57) reducing from a position at which each of the guide vanes (57) is initially bent, ~~thus~~ each of the guide vanes (57) has a tapered shape, with a peak of each of the guide vanes (57) being rounded.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The spacer grid (10) according to claim 3, wherein each of the guide taps (58) is bent toward the center of the spacer grid (10), and is rounded at a bent tip thereof to form an arc-shaped edge.